

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 5 and 6 and amend claims 1, 10, 12, 15 and 21 as follows.

A2
1. (Amended) A foamable drilling fluid, comprising:
an aqueous solvent;
a surfactant comprising sodium lauryl sulfate; and
a polysaccharide.

A3
3. (Amended) The fluid of claim 2, wherein said galactomannan gum is selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropyl guar, guar gum, hydroxypropyl carboxymethyl guar and mixtures thereof.

A4
10. (Amended) The fluid of claim 8, wherein said salt is selected from the group consisting of potassium chloride, sodium chloride, potassium acetate, sodium acetate and mixtures thereof.

A5
12. (Amended) The fluid of claim 8, wherein said fluid contains said polymer in an amount between about 1.5 and about 3.0% w/v, said surfactant in an amount between about 0.3 and about 1.0 % w/v, and said salt in an amount between about 0.1% and about 0.5% w/v.

AG 15. (Amended) The fluid of claim 13, wherein the foamed fluid has a density of between about 1.15 and about 5.0 ppg.

21. (Amended) A foam drilling fluid, comprising:
AN a liquid phase comprising an aqueous solvent, a polysaccharide and a surfactant comprising sodium lauryl sulfate; and
a gas phase selected from the group consisting of air, nitrogen, natural gas, CO₂ and combinations thereof.